

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 14 and 16-24 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 14, 16, 19, 22-24 are amended, and claim 15 is canceled. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors that the time the application was filed had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

By this Amendment, claim 14 is amended for clarity only so as to overcome the Examiner's interpretation. The original specification defines containers 2 that are separated by a step P. The distance between corresponding opposing projections and traction pins is shorter than the step. In addition, per claim 18, both the traction pins and the opposing projections are distributed with a step that is equal to the step between the containers. Claim 14 is amended for clarity only to specify that the containers extend stepwise one after another along the longitudinal direction of the strip so that corresponding points of two adjacent containers are separated by a step, e.g., from the center of one container to the center of another container. This overcomes the Examiner's interpretation regarding the distance between the front end of one container and the back end of another container.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 14-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This amendment is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, the claims are again amended for clarity only to overcome the Examiner's interpretation.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office Action, claims 14 and 17-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over various references. While the Applicants do not agree with these rejections, it is noted with appreciation that the subject matter of claim 15, if placed into independent form, would overcome these rejections. Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 15 (now canceled) has now been incorporated into independent claim 14.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 22-24 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 22-24 have been amended for clarity only to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In addition, as noted above, claim 15, which is also indicated to be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, is similarly rewritten into independent form as claim 14.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

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Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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